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M.L.
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

JONES et al

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Serial No. **Unknown**

Group:

National Phase of: **PCT/GB00/00375**

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Examiner:

For: **DATABASE SYSTEM**

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July 10, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in order to place the above identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the claims as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims previously presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is attached.

- INS. B 12/
- AI
CMT
3. (Amended) A requirement management database system according to claim 1 in which said means for assigning identifiers assigns identifiers comprising:
- a first part identifying the set of elements to which the identifier is assigned;
 - a second part identifying the data element to which the identifier is assigned within the set of elements;
 - a third part indicating the type of data element to which the identifier is assigned.
4. (Amended) A requirements management database system according to claim 1 in which the means for establishing a set of links is operable to establish a further set